

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A network element~~[[,]]~~ ~~said network element being~~ arranged to act between a first IP based network and a second packet data network, said element comprising:

a first interface arranged to communicate with said first IP based network using ~~said~~ an IP protocol to receive signals from and send signals to the first network, said first IP based network being a private computer based network comprising wireless capabilities, said interface being arranged so that traffic intended for a user within said first IP based network from another user within said first network can occur without any signaling occurring externally of said first network~~[[,]]~~; and

a second interface arranged to communicate with said second network via an IP based connection to receive signals from and send signals to the second packet data network.

2. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein said first interface uses a tunneling protocol to communicate with the first IP based network.

3. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 2, wherein said tunneling protocol is one of~~[[,]]~~ L2TP and GTP.

4. (Currently Amended) A The network element A The network element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein said second packet data network is a GPRS network and said network element incorporates serving GPRS support node and gateway GPRS support node functionality.

5. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein said second interface includes at least one of the following layers in its a protocol stack of the second interface~~[[,]]~~ MAP~~[[,]]~~, TCAP~~[[,]]~~, UDP~~[[,]]~~ and IP.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~The network element as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein said second interface is arranged to communicate with a gateway element of said second packet data network.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~The network element as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the first interface uses ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol to communicate with at least one element of said first IP based network.

8. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a first IP based network and a second packet data network, said first and second networks being connected by a the network element of claim 1 ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein said second packet data network is connected to said network element by a border gateway.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 9 wherein said border gateway and said network element are connected by a tunnel.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 9, wherein said second packet data network is connected to said network element by a virtual private network.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein at least one of said first and second networks at least partially comprises a wireless communication part.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 12, wherein the wireless communication part uses the GSM standard.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 12, wherein said second packet data network is general packet radio service network.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein said first IP based network is a WIO network.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 16, wherein said register ~~is in accordance~~ complies with ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

19. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 16, wherein said register stores information relating to user configurations ~~the configuration of the users~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second packet data network and vice versa.

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 8, wherein said network element is part of said first IP based network.

23. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 2, wherein said second packet data network is a GPRS network and said network element incorporates serving GPRS support node and gateway GPRS support node functionality.

24. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 3, wherein said second network is a GPRS network and said network element incorporates serving GPRS support node and gateway GPRS support node functionality.

25. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 2, wherein said second interface includes at least one of the following layers in ~~its~~ a protocol stack of the second interface[:]] MAP[:]], TCAP[:]], UDP[:]] and IP.

26. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 3, wherein said second interface includes at least one of the following layers in ~~its~~ a protocol stack of the second interface[:]] MAP[:]], TCAP[:]], UDP[:]] and IP.

27. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 4, wherein said second interface includes at least one of the following layers in ~~its~~ a protocol stack of the second interface[:]] MAP[:]], TCAP[:]], UDP[:]] and IP.

28. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 2, wherein said second interface is arranged to communicate with a gateway element of said second network.

29. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 3, wherein said second interface is arranged to communicate with a gateway element of said second network.

30. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 4, wherein said second interface is arranged to communicate with a gateway element of said second network.

31. (Currently Amended) A The network element as-claimed-in of claim 5, wherein said second interface is arranged to communicate with a gateway element of said second network.

32. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 2, wherein the first interface uses ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol to communicate with at least one element of said first IP based network.

33. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 3, wherein the first interface uses ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol to communicate with at least one element of said first IP based network.

34. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 4, wherein the first interface uses ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol to communicate with at least one element of said first IP based network.

35. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 5, wherein the first interface uses ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol to communicate with at least one element of said first IP based network.

36. (Currently Amended) A The network element ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 6, wherein the first interface uses ~~the~~ an LDAP protocol to communicate with at least one element of said first IP based network.

37. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 9, wherein at least one of said first and second networks at least partially comprises a wireless communication part.

38. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 10, wherein at least one of said first and second networks at least partially comprises a wireless communication part.

39. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 11, wherein at least one of said first and second networks at least partially comprises a wireless communication part.

40. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as-claimed-in~~ of claim 9, wherein said first, network is a WIO network.

41. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 10, wherein said first network is a WIO network.

42. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 11, wherein said first network is a WIO network.

43. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 12, wherein said first IP based network is a WIO network.

44. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 13, wherein said first IP based network is a WIO network.

45. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 14, wherein said first IP based network is a WIO network.

46. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 9, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

47. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 10, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

48. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 11, wherein first said IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

49. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 12, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

50. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 13, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

51. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 14, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

52. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 15, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

53. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 9, wherein said first IP based network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in said first IP based network, said register being arranged to be connected to said network element.

54. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 10, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

55. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 11, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

56. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 12, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

57. (Currently Amended) A The system as claimed in of claim 13, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

58. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 14, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

59. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 15, wherein said second packet data network comprises a register for storing information relating to users in the first IP based network, said register being accessible by said network element.

60. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 17, wherein said register stores information relating to user configurations ~~the configuration of the users~~.

61. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 18, wherein said register stores information relating to user configurations ~~the configuration of the users~~.

62. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 9, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

63. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 10, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

64. (Currently Amended) A The system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 11, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

65. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 12, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

66. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 13, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

67. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 14, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

68. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 15, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

69. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 16, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

70. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 17, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

71. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 18, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

72. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 19, wherein a signaling gateway is provided in said second packet data network to modify signals sent to and from said first IP based network to ~~be compatible~~ provide compatibility with said second network and vice versa.

73. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 9, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

74. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 10, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

75. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 11, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

76. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 12, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

77. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 13, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

78. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 14, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

79. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 15, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

80. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 16, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

81. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 17, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

82. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 18, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

83. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 19, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

84. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 20, wherein dual mode terminals are provided to permit a user to use a wireless local area network mode in the first IP based network and a GPRS mode in the second packet data network.

85. (Currently Amended) A The system as-claimed-in of claim 9, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

86. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 10, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

87. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 11, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

88. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 12, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

89. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 13, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

90. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 14, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

91. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 15, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

92. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 16, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

93. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 17, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

94. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 18, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

95. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 19, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

96. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 20, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.

97. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system as claimed in~~ of claim 21, wherein said network element is comprises part of said first IP based network.